

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) An anti-idiotypic antibody against the binding region of an antibody directed against an erythropoietin (EPO) peptide, wherein said antibody neutralizes the biological activity of EPO, and wherein said EPO peptide consists essentially of a peptide of less than the complete erythropoietin protein, said peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino-acid positions 138 to 166 (P2) and 152 to 166 (P2/1) in accordance with the numbering of the amino-acid positions of natural EPO.

10-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing an anti-idiotypic antibody as claimed in claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic aid for the detection of neutralizing antibodies or erythropoietin (EPO) receptors, wherein said diagnostic aid contains an anti-idiotypic antibody against the binding region of an antibody directed against an EPO peptide, wherein said antibody neutralizes the biological activity of EPO, and wherein said EPO peptide consists essentially of a peptide of less than the complete erythropoietin protein, said peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino-acid positions 138 to 166 (P2) and 152 to 166 (P2/1) in accordance with the numbering of the amino-acid positions of natural EPO.

17-23. (Canceled)